



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

November 18, 2010

TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: JOHN F. KRATTLI 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Grace G. v. County of Los Angeles**
Compton Superior Court Case No. TC 023 081

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisor's agenda.

JFK:rfm

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Grace G. v. County of Los Angeles, Compton Superior Court Case No. TC 023 081, in the amount of \$245,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit concerns allegations of sexual assault by an on-duty Sheriff's Sergeant.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Grace G. vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	TC 023081
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court, Compton Branch
DATE FILED	May 22, 2009
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 245,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Ben Shahramzad
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Ruben Baeza, Jr.
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff alleges that she was sexually assaulted by an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$245,000 is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 94,509.
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,952.

Case Name: Grace G. v. County of Los Angeles



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	Saturday, May 24, 2008; 2:50 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Grace G. v. County of Los Angeles</u> (Summary Corrective Action Plan No. 2009-027)</p> <p>The plaintiff alleges that on May 24, 2008, at approximately 2:50 a.m., she was sexually assaulted by a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department during and following the execution of a traffic enforcement stop in the city of Paramount.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

A public entity is responsible for the intentional and negligent acts of its employees when the acts are committed in the course and scope of employment.

The root cause of this lawsuit is an allegation of sexual assault committed by an on duty member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The plaintiff seeks relief for assault, battery, false imprisonment, negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and a violation of her civil rights under 42 U.S.C., 1983.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had relevant policies and procedure/protocols in effect at the time of this incident.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's training curriculum addresses the circumstances which occurred in this incident.

Appropriate administrative action was taken.

This summary corrective action plan does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications (see #3 below).

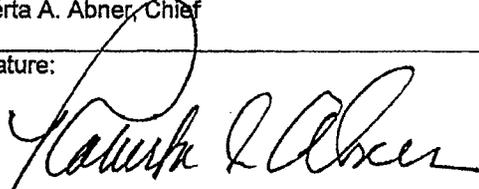
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance)

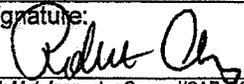
- Potentially has Countywide implications.
- Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Shaun J. Mathers, Acting Captain	
Signature: 	Date: 7/26/10

Name: (Department Risk Manager) Roberta A. Abner, Chief	
Signature: 	Date: 7/29/10

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name: Robert Chavez	
Signature: 	Date: 9/9/10

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* RMIG approval is based on information available to RMIG staff during review.